

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FREEBRIDGE LYNN

ANNUAL REPORT of Dr. O. L. Appleton, Medical Officer of Health, for the year ended 31st December, 1942, in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2773 dated 10th March, 1943.

SECTION - A

<u>Area</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	72,070 acres
<u>Population</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,423
<u>Number of inhabited houses at end of 1942, according to Rate Books</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,147
<u>Rateable Value for whole District</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	£31,080
<u>Product of penny rate</u>	...	...	...	...	...	...	£132

VITAL STATISTICS - None available.

SECTION - B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

These remain the same as in previous years and reports.

SECTION - C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(i) Water - Improvements have been made at Massingham and Middleton, and no report has been received of any serious shortage.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage - Conditions the same as in previous years.

SECTION - D

HOUSING

Building operations in the District, except for minor repairs, are at a standstill owing to war conditions. There is ample scope for Post-War Planning. A large proportion of houses are undoubtedly out of date and fail lamentably to conform to modern hygienic and sanitary demands.

In future planning I would emphasise the importance of ample scullery accommodation.

SECTION - E

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	Nil	-	-
Scarlet fever	19	6	-
Diphtheria	Nil	-	-
Enteric fever (including Paratyphoid)	Nil	-	-
Pneumonia	18	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Ophthalmia	Nil	-	-
Measles	103	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	Nil	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	-	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	-	-
	143	7	-

Referring to the above table it is seen that Measles heads the list 1942 in the second year of this epidemic as it travels from village to village. Scarlet fever is the same as last year and note must be made of the extremely mild type of the disease now prevalent. Only one notification of Whooping Cough was recorded. Notification of Pneumonia has increased to 18; there were only 3 for 1941. There were no notifications of diphtheria during 1942. This is a noteworthy and reassuring fact, and the same can be said regarding Puerperal Pyrexia.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following are the number of new cases notified during the year:-

Male Pulmonary	2
Male Non-Pulmonary	—
Female Pulmonary	1
Female Non-Pulmonary	2
	<u>5</u>

This is very satisfactory and much better than last year when the number was 14. Tuberculosis is said to be increasing in some parts of the country, not so in Freebridge Lynn.

Diphtheria Immunisation. This has been proceeding at a steady rate throughout the year. At the same time I am afraid full use is not being made of the facilities offered. Perhaps the absence of Diphtheria in the district may partly account for it. There is a danger of being lulled into a condition of false security.

Scabies. As far as I can judge there is certainly some increase of the complaint in the district. I am satisfied, however, it is not of serious extent. Facilities are available, provided by the County Council, for its treatment by radical methods when found necessary.

Venereal Disease. As far as I can judge, the incidence of these diseases does not present any difficulty amongst the civil population. Special treatment can be obtained at King's Lynn Hospital. As is well known, there is a special danger of the increase in these diseases in the peculiar conditions incidental in a period of War.

MILK

The importance of a pure supply of milk is undeniable. To obtain a germ-free one Pasteurization is the only reliable method. The universal adoption of this in a Rural District presents many difficulties, which for the present makes it impracticable. The next best thing is to ensure absolute cleanliness in the cowsheds and dairies and personnel engaged in the work. Steps are being taken to ensure this and the more frequent examination of samples. This will entail considerable extra work and travelling for the Sanitary Inspector, who may find it necessary to apply for assistance. The County Council are taking up a scheme having the above in view, special regard being given to the prevention of the danger of transmission of Tuberculosis through impure milk supply.

Registered Cowkeepers	95
Accredited Producers	12
Samples for Methylene Blue Test	24
Samples for Tuberculin Test	9

GENERAL REMARKS

The general health of the district during 1942 has undoubtedly been good, in common with that of the whole country, and this in spite of the severe winter conditions experienced in the early part of the year. With the exception of Measles there was no epidemic.

I should like to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his efficient and painstaking work.

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